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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. ~~B.P. No.~~ 225

Press
Mis.

Dated 16-2-1876 ~~196~~ .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Y 225

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, *16th February* 1876.

No. 190. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd November 1875, No. 3,025:—

Read the following letter from W. D. HORSLEY, Esq., Collector of Cuddapah, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 13th December 1873, No. 254:—

As directed in paragraph 16 of the G. O., No. 1,438, dated 12th September 1870, Mr. Master, the late Collector, undertook the inquiry into the circumstances of the Korapaud Poligar's family in Cuddapah. He examined the Curnams of five villages in the Proddatur Taluq regarding the extent of landed property held by the members of this family. The depositions taken by him are enclosed.

2. Firstly, as to the circumstances of the family I cannot gather from the evidence that the Poligar women Latchminarsammah, Ranganaikammah, and Latchammah have very much, if any thing, to depend upon except their pension. The lands of which the puttahs stand in their names are almost entirely dry. The profits deriveable are variously stated. They may be estimated at Rupees 540 annually, or Rupees 45 per mensem. I very much doubt, however, whether this sum, or any thing approaching to it, ever finds its way to the Puttahdars. Some lands are said to be rented, but for what sum is not known; others are said to have been mortgaged or sold. The Puttahdars being elderly females, I can easily understand that they have very tittle landed property which they can really call their own, though the puttahs may still stand in their names. Of the small portion of land which they possess, the rents are probably inadequate and irregularly paid. I think I may safely say that the Puttahdars' receipts from these lands are well under Rupees 20 in the month. Their pension is the sole source of income on which these women can rely.

3. Secondly, as to the relation which the boy Seetaramiah bears to the Korapaud Poligar family; the evidence taken in this district and in Hyderabad is conflicting, but the balance appears to me to be in favor of the statement of the women, *viz.*, that Seetaramiah is the son of Venkatanarsammah, the sister of Venkatakrishna Reddy, the deceased husband of one of the claimants Ranganaikammah. This makes Seetaramiah the grandson on his mother's side of Narasimha Reddy, the original recipient of the Poligar allowance. The counter-claimant Ramakrishna Reddy bears the same relationship to Narasimha Reddy. On the score of descent the claims of the two parties are equal.

4. The question as to Seetaramiah's parentage is generally supported on both sides by evidence of a worthless description. Both parties are all out in their dates, and discrepancies are left unexplained. There is one witness, howaver, for the women and Seetaramiah, to whose evidence full credit may be attached. He is Rama Reddy, the husband of the late Venkatanarsammah. He states that his marriage with Venkatanarsammah was productive of three sons, of whom the boy

Seetaramiah is the second son. The statement of the party in favor of Ramakrishna Reddy is that Venkatanarsammah died at an age rendering it impossible that she could have had any children. Ramakrishna Reddy says that the Seetaramiah, said to have been taken into her family by Ranganaikammah, is the son of a man named Muttanna. Some of the witnesses say that he is the son of Tippaya, while others declare they are ignorant of the boy's parentage. Ramakrishna Reddy and his party are anxious to make out that Seetaramiah has no connection whatever with the Poligar family; and when they travel away from facts, they get into trouble, and their story does not hold together. Ramakrishna Reddy is an interested party in this dispute, for, if the females are proved to have made a fraudulent statement, they will lose their allowance, and if Seetaramiah is shown to be an alien, Ramakrishna Reddy is the sole representative of the family to succeed to the pension. Rama Reddy, who says he is the father of Seetaramiah, has no such interest in the case. Except by his marriage with Venkatanarsammah, the daughter of the original grantee, he has no connection with the Poligar family. He has by Venkatanarsammah no children now surviving except Seetaramiah. *Primâ facie* there is no reason whatever for his saying that Seetaramiah is his son if the contrary is the truth.

5. I will show that the idea that Seetaramiah is an alien is an after-thought, and was suggested to Ramakrishna Reddy by circumstances which occurred in this district. The village of Korapaud is one of the most disorderly and litigious villages in the district. It has been the scene of ryots in which life has been taken, and these disturbances are caused by the existence of two extremely hostile parties in the village. Narrappah Reddy, who stirred up the mud in this case, is the head of one party. He was formerly head of the village, and was deposed in consequence of a complaint made against him by Dustagiri Reddy, the head of the other party. Dustagiri Reddy succeeded Narrappah Reddy, but was, I think, turned out of office for being a party to a riot in which one of the relatives of Narrappah Reddy was killed. Narrappah Reddy was wounded in the fight, and was the complainant against Dustagiri's party. Petitions and complaints—some of them, I think, were about this very Poligar case and other differences—were the cause of the riot; in fact, charges and counter-charges, riots, and murders have been for some time the order of the day in Korapaud. Dustagiri Reddy was responsible for the original report regarding Seetaramiah's connection with the Poligar family, and that the Poligar women had no landed property, and Narrappah Reddy, of course, found fault with it at once. He knew that the Poligar women had lands in their names, but he did not care to say that they had very little to say to the lands. To make the charge more heavy he hazarded the assertion that Seetaramiah was not what he pretended to be. I say hazarded, because I cannot believe that he knew then what Ramakristna Reddy and his witnesses have since shown by their confused testimony that they did not know. Narrappah Reddy's suggestion was sufficient for Ramakristna Reddy. The statement regarding Seetaramiah's parentage was madeby the Poligar women in 1866. It was apparently acquiesced in by Ramakristna Reddy, who remained silent on a subject so important to him until Narrappah Reddy in 1868 gave him a case to the contrary. A story regarding Seetaramiah was then hastily put together,

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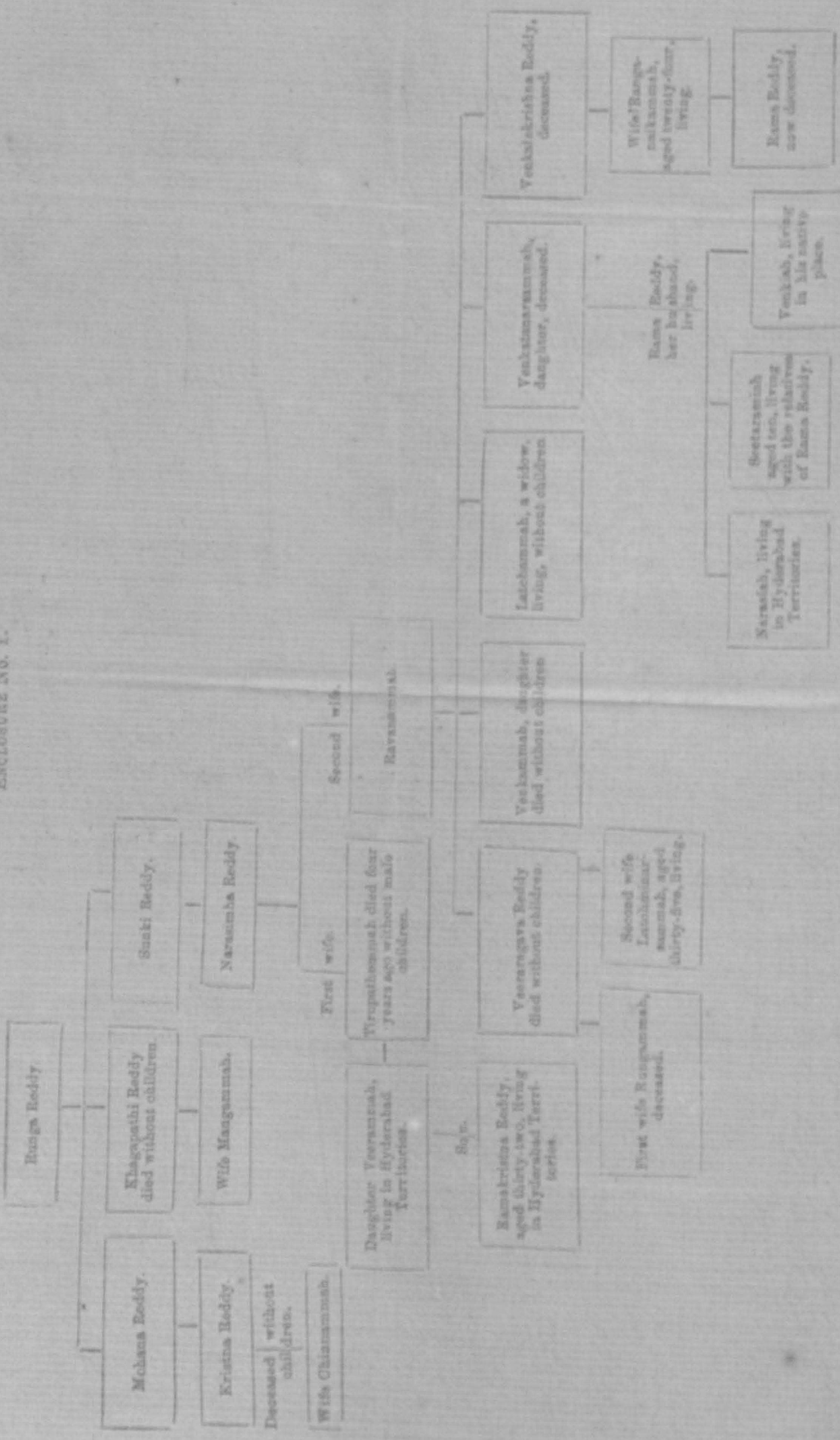
6. A great deal has been said in Hyderabad about the adoption of Seetaramiah by Ranganaikammah. The officers, who conducted the inquiry, have come to the conclusion that there was no proper adoption. But this is irrelevant, as Rananaikammah has only expressed a wish to adopt, and does not say that the adoption has been made. The evidence taken in Hyderabad shows that when Seetaramiah was two years of age, Ranganaikammah, with the apparent authority of her husband Venkatakrishna Reddy, who was not expected to live, asked for, and obtained, the consent of Seetaramiah's parents to adopt their child, should Ranganaikammah's expected child prove to be a girl. A son, Rama Reddy, the late recipient of the allowance, was born to Ranganaikammah, and it was unnecessary then to proceed further with the adoption. Now that Rama Reddy is dead, the adoption of Seetaramiah becomes necessary.

7. Being of opinion that Seetaramiah is the sister's son of the late Poligar Rama Reddy's father Venkatakrishna Reddy, I recommend that Ranganaikammah be allowed to adopt Seetaramiah, and that on his attaining his majority that he be recognized by Government as the proper and sole recipient of the Korapaud Poligar pension. I find that the females Latchminarsammah, Ranganaikammah, and Latchamma have not been guilty of any fraud whatever, and I recommend that the pension be continued to them until the expiry of Seetaramiah's minority.

8. Enclosed are the translations of the depositions taken by Mr. Master in this district from Ramakrishna Reddy regarding the latter's claims to the allowance, and of depositions regarding the position and circumstances of the family; also copies of correspondence received from Hyderabad, and translations of depositions taken in the Nizam's territory. A geneological table is also forwarded to explain statements made in this letter.

Enclosure No. 1.


Runga Reddy.
Mohana Reddy.
Khagapathi Reddy died without children.
Sunki Reddy.
Kristna Reddy.
Deceased without children.
Wife Chinnammah.
Wife Mangammah.
Narasimha Reddy.
First wife.
Second wife.
Tirupathammah died four years ago without male children.
Ravammah.
Daughter Veerammah, living in Hyderabad Territories.
Son.
Ramakristna Reddy, aged thirty-two, living in Hyderabad Territories.
First wife Rungammah, deceased.
Second wife Latchminarsammah, aged thirty-five, living.
Veeraragava Reddy died without children.
Veeramah, daughter died without children
Latchammah, a widow, living, without children
Venkatanarsammah, daughter, deceased.
Rama Reddy, her husband, living.
Narasiah, living in Hyderabad Territories.
Seetaramiah aged ten, living with the relatives of Rama Reddy.
Venkiah, living in his native place.
Venkatakrishna Reddy, deceased.
Wife Ranganaikammah, aged twenty-four, living.
Rama Reddy, now deceased.

(Signed) W. D. HORSLEY, Collector.

Enclosure No. 2.—Copy of deposition taken by late Collector Mr. Master.

Enclosures Nos. 3 to 5.—Copies of letters from Second Assistant Resident, Hyderabad, with translations of deposition taken there.

Submitted for the orders of Government with reference to G. O., dated 12th September 1870, No. 1,438.

1. Mother Ranganaikammah.
2. Aunt, uncle's widow, Latchminarsammah.
3. Paternal aunt Latchammah.
4. Seetaramiah, son of another paternal aunt Venkatanarsammah (deceased).
5 and 6. Brothers of No. 4 (both since dead).
7. Paternal aunt Veeramah.
8. Her son Ramakrishna Reddy.

2. Rama Reddy, registered holder of a Poligar pension of Rupees 1,750 per annum, died unmarried in 1866. The enquiry held by the Tahsildar showed that the family consisted of the persons noted in the margin. The mother stated that the family had no means of subsistence besides the pension which she requested might be registered in her own name, or jointly in the names of herself and of No. 2, or solely in the name of Seetaramiah, No. 4, whom she proposed to adopt.

3. The Tahsildar reported that, on enquiry, he found that the family was entirely dependent on the pension which he recommended should be continued either to the mother or to her and No. 2 jointly, leaving it to the Collector to decide as to the proposal to adopt the boy Seetaramiah, No. 4.

4. In the tabular report submitted by the Collector mention is made only of Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4. The Collector recommended the continuance of Rs. 875 a-year, a moiety of the pension, to the mother Ranganaikammah, as the sole legal heir, observing that the family had no means of subsistence besides the pension.

5. The Board observed that Poligar pensions are hereditary to lineal descendants; that there were none such in this case; but, as the family seemed dependent on the bounty of Government, they recommended that half the pension should be continued and divided equally among the female members; the share of each to lapse on death.

6. Government called for further explanation, remarking that as long as Latchammah and Seetaramiah, son of another paternal aunt Venkatanarsammah (deceased), were living; it was not a fact that there were no lineal descendants of the original grantee.

7. In reply, the Collector stated that, according to law, married daughters with their sons are excluded from the paternal inheritance. The Board regarding this statement as erroneous on reconsideration recommended that the full allowance should be continued and distributed in equal shares among Ranganaikammah, Latchminarsammah, Latchammah, and Seetaramiah. Government approved and sanctioned this proposal (G. O., dated 4th December 1867, No. 2,893).

8. Of certain charges preferred in 1870 by the Collector against his Huzur Sheristadar and a Tahsildar, one was that they were parties to a fraud in connection with the continuance of this pension. The charge originated with one

Narrapah Reddy, a dismissed Village Munsif, who in 1868 presented petitions alleging that a fraud had been committed in regard to the pension, in that its continuance had been sanctioned on the representation that the boy Seetaramiah (reputed son of Rama Reddy by his wife Venkatanarsammah, a daughter of the original grantee) was a grandson of the original grantee, and that the family had no means of subsistence besides the pension, both of which assertions he alleged to be false. The complaint was referred to the Tahsildar for enquiry. The Deputy Collector Rayapah Puntulu reported the result of the enquiry as unsatisfactory, the evidence being conflicting, and suggested that enquiry should be made in the Nizam's territory where Rama Reddy, Seetaramiah's reputed father, lived. In reference to this suggestion an order was sent from the Collector's office directing that the females of the Poligar family should be asked what evidence there was in proof of Seetaramiah's connection with the family. Upon this the ladies produced a document purporting to have been executed in 1856, whereby Rama Reddy gave his son Seetaramiah in adoption to Ranganaikammah's husband Venkatakrishna Reddy, who was at that time the registered holder of the pension.

9. Subsequently, Deputy Collector Sudarshana Row enquired into Narrapah Reddy's complaint. He was of opinion that the deed of adoption was not genuine, and that its fabrication was intentionally suggested by the yadast from the Collector's office directing that the females should be asked as to the evidence available in proof of Seetaramiah's connection with the family. In support of this view he pointed out that at the enquiry in 1866 the document was not produced; that Ranganaikammah then merely declared her intention of adopting Seetaramiah; and that at the date of the document, 1856, Ranganaikammah and her husband being both young, there was no necessity for adoption. The evidence of the several witnesses examined by Surdarshana Row was to the effect that Venkatanarsammah (Seetaramiah's reputed mother), was a daughter of the original grantee; that between thirty-five and forty years ago she was married when very young to Rama Reddy; that about two years after marriage she was sent to her husband's house in the Nizam's territory where they *heard* she died shortly afterwards before attaining puberty. Surdarshana Row accepted this evidence as conclusive proof that Seetaramiah was not Venkatanarsammah's son, and that he did not belong to the family. In this view the Collector and the Board concurred.

10. Government, however, were of opinion that the charge of fraud had not been established, and they thought it possible that, on further investigation, it would be found that Seetaramiah was either the son of Venkatanarsammah, or a member of the branch of the family which had settled in Hyderabad, and that the ladies meant to adopt him in the hope probably of getting a larger allowance, but without any such designs as had been imputed to them. They accordingly directed the discontinuance of Seetaramiah's share of the allowance, pending further enquiry as to the circumstances of the family and his relation to them. The investigation in the Cuddapah District was to be undertaken by the Collector, and enquiry in the Nizam's territory was to be instituted through the aid of the Resident.

11. The result of these further enquiries is reported in the letter above recorded. As regards the circumstances of the family, the Collector states that the profits of the lands for which puttahs stand in their names may be estimated at Rupees 45 a-month, but he much doubts whether they get so much. Some are rented, others mortgaged or sold, and of the lands in their possession he estimates the profits at under Rupees 20 a-month, so that he thinks the family may be considered as dependent on the pension. The Board consider this a matter of minor importance, for while, as in the present case, there are lineal descendants of the original grantee, according to rule the full pension must be continued.

12. As regards the parentage of Seetaramiah, which is the chief point for consideration, the Collector is of opinion that, though the evidence is unsatisfactory and conflicting, the balance is in favor of the assertion that Seetaramiah is Venkatanarsammah's son. He considers that the evidence of Rama Reddy, husband of Venkatanarsammah and reputed father of Seetaramiah, is worthy of full credit, and points out that the charge of fraud originated in malice owing to bitter party feeling in the village of Korapaud. He is of opinion that in making this charge, Narrapah Reddy, the head of one party, merely hazarded the assertion that Seetaramiah did not belong to the family—a surmise which the Board observe is fully borne out by the fact that, when Narrapah Reddy was first examined by Deputy Collector Rayapah Puntulu, he said he did not know who Venkatanarsammah was, and positively asserted that she was not a daughter of the original grantee—an assertion which he afterwards retracted, and which is clearly proved to be false.

13. Most of the witnesses examined in the Nizam's territory, men of apparent respectability, state that Seetaramiah is Rama Reddy's son by his wife Venkatanarsammah, and that he was given in adoption to Ranganaikammah in 1856. A few witnesses examined at the instance of Ramakrishna Reddy, a claimant, whose claim will be noticed further on, deny that Seetaramiah is Venkatanarsammah's son.

14. On a review of the whole case the Board concur in the opinion expressed by the Collector that the weight of evidence is in favor of the assertion that Seetaramiah is the son of Venkatanarsammah. This fact is asserted by persons in a position to know the truth, while it is denied chiefly by those who have no personal knowledge regarding the matter, or who are interested in denying Seetaramiah's connection with the family, such as Ramakrishna Reddy and his witnesses. Besides those who deny that Seetaramiah is Venkatanarsammah's son have completely failed to show whose son he is. In these circumstances the Board deem it unnecessary to consider the question as to Seetaramiahs adoption by Ranganaikammah, particularly as a claim, founded solely on adoption, is according to the terms of the grant inadmissible. The Board accordingly recommend that the order suspending payment of Seetaramiah's share of the allowance be withdrawn.

15. It remains to consider the claim put forward at the last enquiry before the Collector by Ramakrishna Reddy in opposition to Seetaramiah's claim. He is a grandson of the original grantee, and, as such, is entitled to participate in the pension. His name, though entered in the list of heirs given by the Tahsildar in 1866, was apparently through an oversight omitted in the tabular report submitted by

the Collector, since no share of the pension was assigned to him. The Collector, considering that Ramakrishna Reddy knowingly supported the false charge of Narrapah Reddy from interested motives, recommends that he and his heirs be excluded from participation in the pension.

16. It appears, however, that Ramakrishna Reddy has since died, and a claim is now put forward by his son Latchmana Reddy.* As the Board consider that the son should not be punished for his father's fault, particularly when an hereditary pension is in question, they recommend that a share of the pension be assigned to Latchmana Reddy.

* Board's Petition No. 1,102 of 1874.

17. The Board regret the delay which has occurred in the disposal of this matter.

(True Copies and Extract.)
(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

No. 191. ORDER THEREON, 16th February 1876, No. 225.

Miscellaneous.

On consideration of the circumstances detailed in the above Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, His Grace the Governor in Council is pleased to withdraw the order* suspending payment to Seetaramiah of his share of the pension, and to direct that in future the pension should be divided equally between the five persons named in the margin, who, on full inquiry, are ascertained to be entitled to the same.

*G.O., 12th September 1870, No. 1,438.

1. Ranganaikammah, mother of Rama Reddy, last holder.
2. Latchminarasammah, widow of a paternal uncle of the last holder.
3. Latchammah, a paternal aunt of last holder.
4. Seetaramiah, son of another paternal aunt of last holder.
5. Virammah, daughter of the original grantee.

(True Extract.)
(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Accountant-General.

Exd. F. R. Bandeman.

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Govt. of (1876) Madras

REVENUE.

The BOARD of REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Rw: 20-2-77: 750
C. No 7085 of 99

Dated February, 18 .

Read. Read.

G.O., 15th February 1876, No. 228.

FEBRUARY.

Nos. 190-191.

Poligar Pension of late Rama Reddy of Cuddapah District.—Withdrawing the order suspending payment to Seetaramiah of his share of the —, and directing that in future the pension should be divided equally between the five persons specified within.

4/2

No. 3,025.

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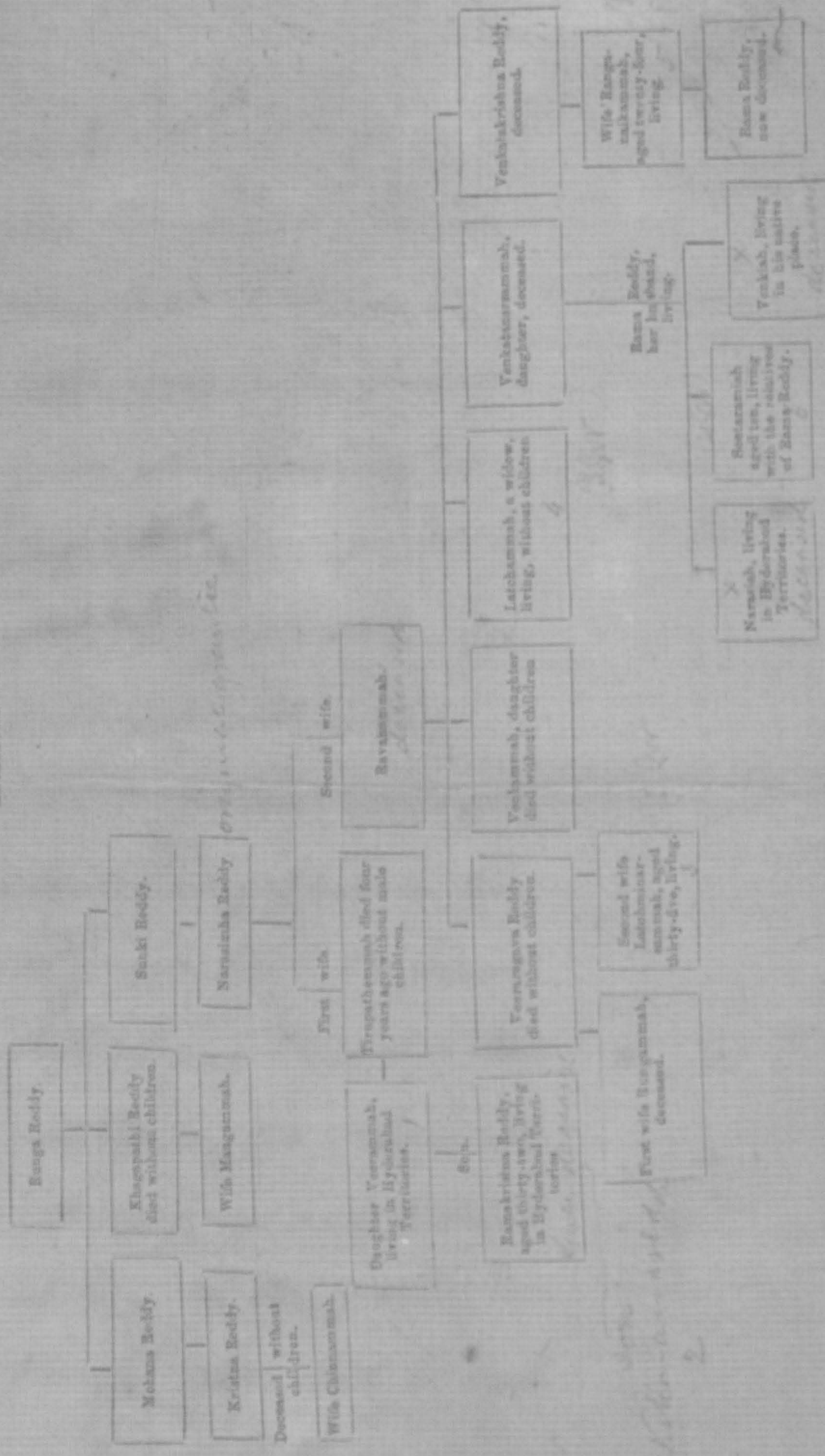
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Second wife Latchminarsammah, aged thirty-five, living.
Veeramah, daughter died without children
Latchammah, a widow, living, without children.
Venkatanarsammah, daughter, deceased.
Venkatakrishna Reddy, deceased.
Wife Ranganaikammah, aged twenty-four, living.
Rama Reddy, now deceased.
Rama Reddy, her husband, living.
Narasiah, living in Hyderabad Territories.
Seetaramiah aged ten, living with the relatives of Rama Reddy.
Venkiah, living in his native place.

(Signed) W. D. HORSLEY, Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.—Copy of deposition taken by late Collector Mr. Master.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 3 to 5.—Copies of letters from Second Assistant Resident, Hyderabad, with translations of deposition taken there.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government with reference to G. O., dated 12th September 1870, No. 1,438.

2. Rama Reddy, registered holder of a Poligar pension of Rupees 1,750 per annum, died unmarried in 1866. The enquiry held by the Tahsildar showed that the family consisted of the persons noted in the margin. The mother stated that the family had no means of subsistence besides the pension which she requested might be registered in her own name, or jointly in the names of herself and of No. 2, or solely in the name of Seetaramiah, No. 4, whom she proposed to adopt.

1. Mother Ranganaikammah.
2. Aunt, uncle's widow, Latchminarsammah.
3. Paternal aunt Latchammah.
4. Seetaramiah, son of another paternal aunt Venkatanarsammah (deceased).
5 and 6. Brothers of No. 4 (both since dead).
7. Paternal aunt Veeramah.
8. Her son Ramakrishna Reddy.

3. The Tahsildar reported that, on enquiry, he found that the family was entirely dependent on the pension which he recommended should be continued either to the mother or to her and No. 2 jointly, leaving it to the Collector to decide as to the proposal to adopt the boy Seetaramiah, No. 4.

4. In the tabular report submitted by the Collector mention is made only of Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4. The Collector recommended the continuance of Rs. 875 a-year, a moiety of the pension, to the mother Ranganaikammah, as the sole legal heir, observing that the family had no means of subsistence besides the pension.

5. The Board observed that Poligar pensions are hereditary to lineal descendants; that there were none such in this case; but, as the family seemed dependent on the bounty of Government, they recommended that half the pension should be continued and divided equally among the female members; the share of each to lapse on death.

6. Government called for further explanation, remarking that as long as Latchammah and Seetaramiah, son of another paternal aunt Venkatanarsammah (deceased), were living; it was not a fact that there were no lineal descendants of the original grantee.

7. In reply, the Collector stated that, according to law, married daughters with their sons are excluded from the paternal inheritance. The Board regarding this statement as erroneous on reconsideration recommended that the full allowance should be continued and distributed in equal shares among Ranganaikammah, Latchminarsammah, Latchammah, and Seetaramiah. Government approved and sanctioned this proposal (G. O., dated 4th December 1867, No. 2,893).

8. Of certain charges preferred in 1870 by the Collector against his Huzur Sheristadar and a Tahsildar, one was that they were parties to a fraud in connection with the continuance of this pension. The charge originated with one Narrapah Reddy, a dismissed Village Munsif, who in 1868 presented petitions alleging that a fraud had been committed in regard to the pension, in that its continuance had been sanctioned on the representation that the boy Seetaramiah

(reputed son of Rama Reddy by his wife Venkatanarsammah, a daughter of the original grantee) was a grandson of the original grantee, and that the family had no means of subsistence besides the pension, both of which assertions he alleged to be false. The complaint was referred to the Tahsildar for enquiry. The Deputy Collector Rayapah Puntulu reported the result of the enquiry as unsatisfactory, the evidence being conflicting, and suggested that enquiry should be made in the Nizam's territory where Rama Reddy, Seetaramiah's reputed father, lived. In reference to this suggestion an order was sent from the Collector's office directing that the females of the Poligar family should be asked what evidence there was in proof of Seetaramiah's connection with the family. Upon this the ladies produced a document purporting to have been executed in 1856, whereby Rama Reddy gave his son Seetaramiah in adoption to Ranganaikammah's husband Venkatakrishna Reddy, who was at that time the registered holder of the pension.

9. Subsequently, Deputy Collector Sudarshana Row enquired into Narrapah Reddy's complaint. He was of opinion that the deed of adoption was not genuine, and that its fabrication was intentionally suggested by the yadast from the Collector's office directing that the females should be asked as to the evidence available in proof of Seetaramiah's connection with the family. In support of this view he pointed out that at the enquiry in 1866 the document was not produced; that Ranganaikammah then merely declared her intention of adopting Seetaramiah; and that at the date of the document, 1856, Ranganaikammah and her husband being both young, there was no necessity for adoption. The evidence of the several witnesses examined by Surdarshana Row was to the effect that Venkatanarsammah (Seetaramiah's reputed mother), was a daughter of the original grantee; that between thirty-five and forty years ago she was married when very young to Rama Reddy; that about two years after marriage she was sent to her husband's house in the Nizam's territory where they *heard* she died shortly afterwards before attaining puberty. Surdarshana Row accepted this evidence as conclusive proof that Seetaramiah was not Venkatanarsammah's son, and that he did not belong to the family. In this view the Collector and the Board concurred.

10. Government, however, were of opinion that the charge of fraud had not been established, and they thought it possible that, on further investigation, it would be found that Seetaramiah was either the son of Venkatanarsammah, or a member of the branch of the family which had settled in Hyderabad, and that the ladies meant to adopt him in the hope probably of getting a larger allowance, but without any such designs as had been imputed to them. They accordingly directed the discontinuance of Seetaramiah's share of the allowance, pending further enquiry as to the circumstances of the family and his relation to them. The investigation in the Cuddapah District was to be undertaken by the Collector, and enquiry in the Nizam's territory was to be instituted through the aid of the Resident.

11. The result of these further enquiries is reported in the letter above recorded. As regards the circumstances of the family, the Collector states that the profits of the lands for which puttahs stand in their names may be estimated at Rupees 45 a-month, but he much doubts whether they get so much. Some are rented, others mortgaged or sold, and of the lands in their possession he estimates the profits at under Rupees 20 a-month, so that he thinks the family may be considered as dependent on the pension. The Board consider this a matter of minor importance, for while, as in the present case, there are lineal descendants of the original grantee, according to rule the full pension must be continued.

12. As regards the parentage of Seetaramiah, which is the chief point for consideration, the Collector is of opinion that, though the evidence is unsatisfactory and conflicting, the balance is in favor of the assertion that Seetaramiah is Venkatanarsammah's son. He considers that the evidence of Rama Reddy, husband of Venkatanarsammah and reputed father of Seetaramiah, is worthy of full credit, and points out that the charge of fraud originated in malice owing to bitter party feeling in the village of Korapaud. He is of opinion that in making this charge, Narrapah Reddy, the head of one party, merely hazarded the assertion that Seetaramiah did not belong to the family—a surmise which the Board observe is fully borne out by the fact that, when Narrapah Reddy was first examined by Deputy Collector Rayapah Puntulu, he said he did not know who Venkatanarsammah was, and positively asserted that she was not a daughter of the original grantee—an assertion which he afterwards retracted, and which is clearly proved to be false.

13. Most of the witnesses examined in the Nizam's territory, men of apparent respectability, state that Seetaramiah is Rama Reddy's son by his wife Venkatanarsammah, and that he was given in adoption to Ranganaikammah in 1856. A few witnesses examined at the instance of Ramakrishna Reddy, a claimant, whose claim will be noticed further on, deny that Seetaramiah is Venkatanarsammah's son.

14. On a review of the whole case the Board concur in the opinion expressed by the Collector that the weight of evidence is in favor of the assertion that Seetaramiah is the son of Venkatanarsammah. This fact is asserted by persons in a position to know the truth, while it is denied chiefly by those who have no personal knowledge regarding the matter, or who are interested in denying Seetaramiah's connection with the family, such as Ramakrishna Reddy and his witnesses. Besides those who deny that Seetaramiah is Venkatanarsammah's son have completely failed to show whose son he is. In these circumstances the Board deem it unnecessary to consider the question as to Seetaramiahs adoption by Ranganaikammah, particularly as a claim, founded solely on adoption, is according to the terms of the grant inadmissible. The Board accordingly recommend that the order suspending payment of Seetaramiah's share of the allowance be withdrawn.

15. It remains to consider the claim put forward at the last enquiry before the Collector by Ramakrishna Reddy in opposition to Seetaramiah's claim. He is a grandson of the original grantee, and, as such, is entitled to participate in the pension. His name, though entered in the list of heirs given by the Tahsildar in 1866, was apparently through an oversight omitted [illegible] the tabular report submitted by the Collector, since no share of the pension was assigned to him. The Collector, considering that Ramakrishna Reddy knowingly supported the false charge of Narrapah Reddy from interested motives, recommends that he and his heirs be excluded from participation in the pension.

16. It appears, however, that Ramakrishna Reddy has since died, and a claim is now put forward by his son Latchmana Reddy.* As the Board consider

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* Board's Petition No. 1,102 of 1874.

that the son should not be punished for his father's fault, particularly when an hereditary pension is in question, they recommend that a share of the pension be assigned to Latchmana Reddy.

17. The Board regret the delay which has occurred in the disposal of this matter.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with four enclosures and petitions Nos. 1,102
of 1874 and 816 of 1875, to be returned.

Copy to the Collector of Cuddapah.

Exd. A. Grubert.

No. 190

c 28 Jany/76 No 87

G.O. 4 Decr/67 No 76-77.
— 12 Septr/70 - 147-49.

17-10-74

No. 4447

Revenue 1875. Depts

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 3RD NOVEMBER 1875, No. 3,025.

Despd. 16 Novr/75

Encl. 6

G.O. No 225 - 16 February 1876

Received 17 Novr/75

NOVEMBER.

No. 3,025.

Poligar Pension—enjoyed by the family of the deceased Rama Reddy of Cuddapah District.—Submitting to Government Collector's letter regarding the claim of one Seetaramiah to a share in —, and recommending that the order suspending payment of his share be withdrawn, and that another share be assigned to Latchmana Reddy, son of one Ramakrishna Reddy.

Revenue Department.

No. 225

PROCEEDINGS *of the* MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

READ Proceedings Board of Revenue dated 3 November 1875 No. 3025 about Poligar Pension enjoyed by the family of the deceased Rama Reddy of Cuddapah Dt. &c.

Order thereon 16th Feby 1876 No 225

On consideration of the circumstances detailed in the above Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to withdraw the order* suspending payment to Seetaramiah of his share of the pension; & to direct that in future the pension should be divided equally between the five persons named in the margin who, on full enquiry, are ascertained to be entitled to

* G.O. 12 Sept/70 No 1438

1. Rangamaikammah mother of Rama Reddy last holder
2. Latchmeenarasammah widow of a paternal uncle of the last holder
3. Latchammah a paternal aunt of last holder
4. Seetaramiah son of another paternal aunt of last holder
5. Veerammah daughter of the original grantee

to the same -

True Extract

(Sd.) D. J. Carmichael
Secy to Govt

To

14 The Bd of Revenue Dd 17 Feb
b the Accountant General

4/49

Revenue Deptt

11/225

Memo for Orders

Pro: Bd. of Revenue

Sub? Collr's letter regarding the claim of one Seeta: ramiah to a share in Polijar Pension enjoyed by the family of the deceased Rama Reddy of Cuddapah Dt. & recommending that the order suspending payment of his share be withdrawn & that another share be assigned to Latchmana Reddy son of one Ramakrishna Reddy.

H.E. 3 Novr. 1875 No. 3025

I beg to recommend the course suggested in Para 13 of the Memo.

I agree to the adoption of the course detailed in para 13 of this Memo

AWe

These Proceedings refer to a share in a Polijar pension in Cuddapah, which has been stopped by order ×of Government pending the result of enquiries directed

× G.O. 12 Septr. 1870 No. 1438

directed to be made regarding the status of the individual to whom it had been assigned by a previous order.

2. The facts of this case are briefly these :— A pension of Rupees 1,750 per annum was originally granted, in lieu of resumed priveleges, to one Narasimha Reddi, a representative of the Poligar of Korapad, & this less Rs 235-12-– separately allotted to two female members of the family,

descended

descended in 1861 to the original grantee's grandson Rama Reddi, then an infant aged two years. (G.O. 15 Octr 1861 No. 1992)

Rama Reddi died in 1866 and after some correspondence, the Govt in G.O. 4 Decr 1867 No. 2893 sanctioned the distribution of the whole pension including the portion abovementioned (the two females to whom it had been assigned having deceased in the meantime) in four equal shares among the persons named below:—

1. Ranganayaki Amma,

mother of the last holder, Rama Reddi

2. Lakshuminarasamma, widow, childless, of a paternal uncle of the last holder.

3. Lakshamma, also a childless widow, paternal aunt of the last holder

4. Sitaramayya, (a boy then 10 years old) son of another paternal aunt of the last holder, deceased.

3. This stood the case till the beginning of 1870, when certain charges were brought forward

against

against certain principal Revenue Officers in the District by the then Coll^r. M^r. G. Vans Agnew, & one of which was, that the boy Sitaramayya (No. 4) had no connection with the family & that he was palmed off on Gov^t. as a son of Venkatanarasamma, a paternal aunt of the last holder & daughter of the original grantee.

4. It is here to be observed, that the Coll^r. M^r. Smith, who reported

the case on Rama Reddi's death in 1866, took no notice of Sitaramayya beyond inserting his name in the genealogical table. His recommendation was, that the pension should be continued to the deceased's mother (No. 1) during her life; but the

Govt.

Govt. observing his (Sitaramayya's) position in the family after obtaining a further report, directed the distribution of the pension in four equal shares as above stated, assigning one to Sitaramayya.

~~A~~ The conclusion arrived at by Mr. Vans Agnew upon the evidence taken by his new Deputy Collr. Sudarsana Row, in 1869 was, that this individual's alleged descent from the original grantee, through his daughter Venkatanarasammah, deceased, was a fiction, & that the ignorant fe:males of the Poligar family had been led by the assurance of support at the Collr's headquarters to attempt to palm off the boy as an heir. The Bd., accepting this con:clusion, recommended that the share

share of the pension which had been assigned to Sitaramayya should be discontinued.

5. The Govt., however, were not satisfied with the evidence on which the above conclusion rested; they considered (G. O. 12th Septr. 1870 No. 1438), that the account of the matter as given by the females was much more natural than the hypothesis of fraud, and directed further enquiries to be made by Mr. Vans Agnew's

successor, Mr. C. G. Master in Cuddapah by himself in person, & at Hyderabad through the aid of the Resident. The account of the matter as originally given by the females, to which the Govt. referred, was that Venkatanarasamma, a daughter of the original grantee, had three sons, of whom the boy Sitaramayya was one (the other two having been dead); that Venkatakrishna Reddi, son of the original grantee, while on his death-bed, told his wife Ranganayakamma, then

pregnant

pregnant, to adopt Sitaramayya in case her expected issue proved to be a girl; that the issue was a boy (the last holder Rama Reddi,) and consequently the intention was not carried out, & that Rama Reddi being then dead, they intended to adopt Sitaramayya.

6. In the Board's Proceedings quoted at the head of this Memo, is embodied the report of the present Collector, Mr. Horsley, on the result of the enquiries instituted

as directed by Govt. These enquiries have been instituted partly by Mr. Master & partly by Mr. Horsley in Cuddapah, and by the Officers of the Nizam's Govt. in Hyderabad. The evidence now taken is conflicting; but, in the Collector's opinion, the balance is in favor of the statement of the women, that Sitaramayya is the son of Venkataramanamma. The husband of the last named, Rama Reddi

Rama Reddi ? husband of Vencata Narasummah & father of Setaramayya. different from Rama reddi son of Venkatakrishna Reddi Ranganayakumma.

Reddi, to whose testimony Mr. Horsley gives full credit, acknowledges that he is the father of the boy. A great deal has been said in Hyderabad about the adoption of Sitaramayya by Ranganayakamma, and the Officers who conducted the enquiries have come to the conclusion that there was no proper adoption; but, as the Board observe, it does not seem to be necessary to consider this question.

The Collector attaches no value to the evidence of the witnesses examined at the instance of the counter claimant, or Ramakrishna Reddi, whose claim will be noticed further on. Some of them assign contradictory parentages to Sitaramayya, while the others declare that they are ignorant of his parentage; "when they travel away from facts, they get into trouble, & their story does not hold together." The Collr. considers that the charge of fraud in respect to the grant of a share in the Pension to

to Sitaramayya originated in bitter party feeling; Narrappa Reddi, the head of one of the notorious factions in Korapad, who came forward to prefer the charge, merely hazarded the assertion, that Sitaramayya did not belong to the family, thus causing all the agitation which ensued. Originally he went so far as to say that he did not know who Venkatanarasamma was, and positively asserted that she was not a daughter of the original grantee - an assertion which is clearly proved to be false, and which he himself has afterwards retracted.

7. The Board, concurring

in the Collector's opinion that the weight of the Evidence is in favor of the assertion that Sitaramayya is the son of Venkatanarasamma, recommend that the order suspending payment of his share of the pension be withdrawn.

8. Another ground of the accusation of fraud in this case, was, that the family while it had landed property, was represented to have nothing but the pension to subsist upon. On this point Mr Horsley states, that the lands, of which the Puttahs stand in the names of the females, are not worth much; they are dry; some rented out and others mortgaged. He estimates the actual receipts from such lands as the

females

females possess to be well under Rs 20 in the month, and thinks the family may be considered as dependent on the pension. The Board consider this a matter of minor importance inasmuch as where, as in the present case, there are lineal descendants of the original grantee, the full pension must, under the rules, be continued.

9. There is one point touching the conduct of the females of this Poligar family, which has not been satisfactorily explained. The original statement as to Sitaramayya's relationship to them and the intention of Ranganayakamma to adopt him seems to be fair enough

as the present report shows; but, during the investigation which ensued upon the accusations of fraud preferred by Narappa Reddi, the former produced a document purporting to have been executed in 1856, whereby Rama Reddi gave his son Sitaramayya in adoption to Ranganayakamma's husband Venkatakrishna Reddi. This document was not produced at the enquiry in 1866, when Ranganayakamma merely declared her intention to adopt Sitaramayya, and indeed there could have been no need for the adoption in 1856 when both Ranganayakamma and her husband were young. It is, however, at the same time

difficult

Whet the document proved 2 was therefore relevant —

difficult to perceive the motive for this attempt to establish an adoption, while the enquiry had reference merely to Sitaramayya's natural descent, in consideration of which alone a share in the pension had been assigned to him by G.O. dated 4th Dec: 1867 No. 2893.

10. As regards the individual Ramakrishna Reddi, referred to in para 6 (he has deceased since the date of the Collector's report now under consideration); it has been brought to notice now for the first time, that he was the son of another daughter of the original grantee, by name Viramma, now alive, and as such stood in the same position with respect to his descent, as Sitaramayya. His name was included in the list of heirs sent up by the Tahsildar in 1866, but was omitted, apparently

through oversight, in the tabular report sub-mitted by the Collector, and hence, in the distribution of the pension sanctioned by Govt. in G.O. 4th Dec: 1867, no share was assigned to him. The present Collector, Mr. Horsley, considering that Ramakrishna Reddi has endeavoured to substantiate by false evidence the unfounded accusation of fraud against the family, recommends that he and his descendants be excluded from participation in the pension.

11. As above stated, however, Ramakrishna Reddi has since deceased, and a claim has been preferred by his son Lakshmanna Reddi. The Board, therefore, considering that the son should not be punished for the father's fault, particularly when an hereditary pension is in question, recommend

that

that a share of the pension be assigned to the former; they however, do not say what share and how it is to be made available. This is a material point, since the Board's own recommendation that Sitaramyya's share should be restored to him, leaves nothing for Ramakrishna Reddi's son, the rest of the pension having been distributed among the three females, No.s 1 to 3 in para 2 supra.

12. The present Collector's recommendation with respect to the disposal of the pension is, that Rangaraiyakkamma, mother of the last holder Rama Reddi, should be

authorized to adopt Sita-ramayya, and that the latter, still a minor, on his attaining his Majority, should be recognized as sole heir to the pension, the same being continued in the meantime to the females N^os^ 1 to 3. With a slight modification, i.e. that the whole pension shall in the mean time be paid to N^o^ 1, the adoptive mother, as guardian to the minor heir, upon the condition that she shall provide for the two other females to the full extent to which they now participate in the pension; this plan would, no doubt be the simplest and at the

Should be so if possible

the same time in accordan with the Hindu law; but it involves a reversal of the arrangement sanctioned by G.O. dated 4th December 1867; and it is to be observed, that in dealing with pensions payable by them, the Government are not bound to abide by the strict rules of the law of succession.

13. The only other eligible alternative, which involves a reversal of the existing arrangement but to a much smaller extent, and which is the necessary consequence of the Board's recommendation, is the

redistribution of the whole pension into five equal shares; the three females, who now get one-fourth each, receiving one-fifth instead; Sitaramyya one similar share, and Venkatakrishna Reddi's mother, Viramma, another surviving daughter of the original grantee, whose existence has now come to light, another similar share. There seems to be no reason why, when the daughter is alive, the share due to her should go to her grandson who can claim only as her representative.

?Ramakrishna Reddy

By this arrangement, two daughters-in-law, (widows of two sons) of the original grantee (Nos 1 & 2 in para 2), his two surviving daughters (No 3 & Viramma×), and the son of another daughter who has deceased would each get an equal share of the pension.

× para 10 Supra

14. Orders are requested as to which of the two different courses suggested by the Board and the Collector is to be adopted.

25/1/6

We accept the course recommended which divides the pension fairly between the children of the original grantee or their representatives

2/2

Elliott

Memo for Order

Certain Poligar Pension in Cuddapah District

On consideration of the circumstances detailed in the above Proceedings of the Bd. of Revenue, His Excy the Governor in Council is pleased to withdraw the order* suspending payment to Seetaramiah of his share of the pension, & to direct that in future the pension shd. be divided equally between the five persons† named in the margin who, after full enquiry, are ascertained to be entitled to the same.

* G.O. 12th Sept. 1870 No. 1438

†
1. Ranganaikammah mother of Ramareddy last holder.
2. Latchminarasammah widow of a paternal uncle of the last holder.
3. Latchammah a paternal aunt of last holder
4. Seetaramiah son of another paternal aunt of last holder.
5. Viramma ~~great granddaughter~~ daughter of the original grantee.

for orders

C 28 Jany/76 Rd 7 Feby/76.

8-2-76